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Waller, Lewis
Parts I have played

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his favourite part (as selected by him)*

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1883-1909

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MR LEWIS WALLER

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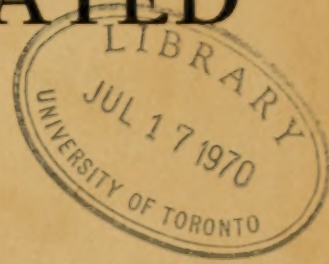


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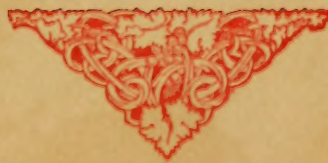
PARTS I HAVE PLAYED

A PHOTOGRAPHIC
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:: BIOGRAPHY ::



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MR. LEWIS WALLER.



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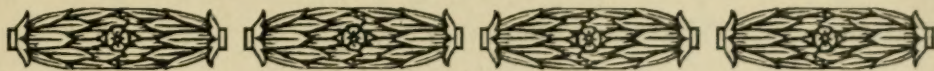
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Portrait by J. M. W. Turner, London & Paris

Louis Walker.

MARCUS BRUTUS.



MR. LEWIS WALLER.

A BIOGRAPHY.

BORN of English parentage in Bilbao, Mr. Lewis Waller, who has won for himself the reputation of being one of the finest romantic actors of his generation, was destined for a commercial career. To that end, he studied foreign languages on the Continent. On his return home, he entered his uncle's firm in the City, where he was eventually promoted to be foreign correspondence clerk, and there he remained for five years. His leisure was spent in amateur acting, but, curious as it may seem in the light of his great success, he was never given a good part.

His first appearance on the professional stage was made in 1883 as the "Hon. Claude Lorrimer" in *Uncle Dick's Darling*, under the management of the late John Lawrence Toole, at Toole's Theatre, which was subsequently pulled down in order to enlarge Charing Cross Hospital. It was a day of auspicious omen, for the performance

that night was, by a happy chance, graced by the presence of His Majesty—then Prince of Wales.

With Mr. Toole, Mr. Waller remained for a year, playing the leading light comedy and juvenile parts in the pieces produced at that Theatre, which he left in order to appear as "Gilbert Vaughan" in *Called Back* in a provincial tour.

His first opportunity came when he was engaged for the juvenile parts in a repertory tour of the provinces with the late Madame Modjeska, the characters allotted to him being "Orlando" in *As You Like It*, "Sir Edward Mortimer" in *Mary Stuart*, "De Varville" in *Heartsease*, and the "Abbe" in *Adrienne Lecouvreur*. Immediately following this, he entered into management for the first time by taking out a provincial tour of *Dark Days*, in which he played "Dr. Basil North." The venture, however, did not justify a repetition, and, returning to London, Mr. Waller accepted engagements at the Strand, where he played "Roy Carlton" in *Jack-in-the-Box*; at the Standard, where he acted "Ernest Vane" in *Masks and Faces* and "Captain Absolute" in *The Rivals*; at the Gaiety, where he played "Jacques Rosney" in *Civil War*; and then joined Messrs. Hare and Kendal at the St. James's. Among others, his parts were: "Duc de Bligny" in *The Ironmaster*, "Sir George Barclay" in *Clancarty*, "Lord Arden" in *The Wife's Secret*, and, under the management of Mr. Rutland Barrington at the same house, "George Sabine" in *The Dean and his Daughter* and "Ralph Crampton" in *Brantingham Hall*.

During this period, few theatres played regular afternoon performances, so that the actors were, for the most part, engaged only in the evening. Many matinées were, however, given to introduce

new plays and new players ; and in this way Mr. Waller acted a large number of new parts, all of an ephemeral character.

He was then engaged by the late Mr. Wilson Barrett for the Princess's Theatre, where he played "Crosby Grainger" in *Good Old Times* and "Tom Saxon" in *Now-a-days*, before going to the Garrick under the management of Sir (then Mr.) John Hare, where he played "Hugh Murray" in *The Profligate* and "Cavaradossi" in *La Tosca*. He then went to Terry's to play "Belasys" in *Nixie*; and to the Comedy to act "Edwards" in *A Modern Marriage*; to the Shaftesbury where he played "Fedor Ivanovitch" in *The Sixth Commandment* and "Lord Hellmore" in *The Pharisee*, after which he returned to the Princess's, then under the management of Mrs. Langtry, to play "Lord Brent" in *Lady Barter*.

His next London parts were at the Avenue (now the Playhouse) as "Nicholas Vanalstyne" in *The Henrietta* and "Philos Inglefield" in *The Crusaders*, and after a series of short engagements he was secured by Mrs. Langtry for her season at the Haymarket, when he played "Armand Sevarro" in *The Queen of Manoa* and "Hugh Ainsworth" in *Agatha Tylden*.

The Haymarket was then under the regular management of Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, with whom Mr. Waller played "Orestes" in *Hypatia* and "Ford" in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Leaving London, he undertook a managerial tour in the provinces, appearing as "Lord Illingworth" in *A Woman of No Importance*, and returned to the Haymarket for a short season, under his own direction, when he played "Sir Robert Chiltern" in *An Ideal Husband*. This

play was subsequently transferred to the Criterion, where, in partnership with Sir Charles Wyndham, he produced *The Home Secretary*, in which he played "Morris Lecaile." *The Home Secretary* was afterwards removed to the Shaftesbury, in the management of which he associated himself with Mr. H. H. Morell. There, he played "Philip Christian" in *The Manxman*, "Stephen da Costa" in *A Woman's Reason*, "Heinrich" in *The Sin of St. Hulda*, "Archibald Rolles" in *A Match Maker*, and "Prince Lucio Rimanez" in *The Sorrows of Satan*.

Again giving up management, he rejoined Mr. Tree at the Haymarket to play "Hotspur" in *Henry IV* (Part I), and with Mr. Tree he went to Her (now His) Majesty's Theatre to play "Captain Moray" in *The Seats of the Mighty*, "Chevalier d'Aubigny" in *The Silver Key*, "Laertes" in *Hamlet*, "Brutus" in *Julius Cæsar*, "Prince Alexis Valerian" in *The Red Lamp*, "Raymond de Noirville" in *A Man's Shadow*, "Jack" in *Ragged Robin*, "Philip Faulconbridge" in *King John*, "Lysander" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the "Duke of Buckingham" in *The Musketeers*, in another version of which play he had previously acted "D'Artagnan" in the Suburbs, the provinces and the now demolished Globe Theatre.

Forming a partnership with Mr. William Mollison in 1900, he took the Lyceum, where they produced *Henry V*, in which he played the name part and "D'Artagnan," as he subsequently did in the provinces, after which which he took the Duke of York's Theatre, when he played "Don César de Bazan" in *A Royal Rival*, and "Evan Griffiths" in *The Sentimentalist*.

He was next engaged by Mrs. Langtry at the no longer existing Imperial Theatre, and played "Napoleon" in *Mlle. Mars*.

Joining Sir Charles Wyndham at Wyndham's Theatre, he played "Captain Hawkesley" in *Still Waters Run Deep*.

In Liverpool he produced *Monsieur Beaucaire*, playing the name part, which he subsequently acted at the Comedy under his own management.

Becoming Lessee and Manager of the Imperial Theatre in 1903, he acted "M. Beaucaire" in *Monsieur Beaucaire*, "Ruy Blas" in *The Queen's Romance*, "The Comte de Candale" in *A Marriage of Convenience*, "Captain Harry Peyton" in *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*, "Geoffrey Mohun" in *His Majesty's Servant*, "Anthony Hamilton Hawthorne" in *Hawthorne U.S.A.*, "Romeo" in *Romeo and Juliet*, "Joseph Tremblett" in *The Perfect Lover*, "Harlequin" in *The Harlequin King*, and "Brigadier Gerard" in *Brigadier Gerard*.

In 1906 he became the manager of the Lyric Theatre, where he played "Othello" in *Othello*, "Robin Hood" in *Robin Hood*, "Jim Carston" in *A White Man*, "Lord Clancarty" in *Clancarty*, "Alexander Mackenzie," in *The Explorer*, "Lagardère" in *The Duke's Motto*, "Henry V," "M. Beaucaire," "Hotspur" in *Henry IV* (Part I), "Colonel Armand de Montriveau" in *The Conquest*, and "Colonel Egerton" in *The Fires of Fate*.

In discussing the characters he had played, Mr. Waller is inclined to regard "Brutus" as his favourite. "My reason for this selection," he said to me, "is that 'Brutus' appeals to me as the most perfect man in the whole gallery of the great Shakespearean characters on account of his dignity and gentleness, his absolute sense of right and duty, his tenderness, and the love he bore to Portia.

"Were I, however, to consider the matter from the actor's point of view of playing the part for a run, I should be inclined to select 'Othello' or 'Henry V,' for the reason that they are greater acting

parts. On the other hand, there are certain parts which make a very great appeal to me, although I have not yet had an opportunity of acting them. Among them are 'Macbeth,' 'Coriolanus' and 'Hamlet,' in all of which I certainly hope to appear at some time.

"Apart from the classical drama, 'M. Beaucaire,' which I have played many hundreds of times, is my favourite on account of his many delightful characteristics, his chivalry towards women, his humour, his wit, and his general brilliancy, all of which give the actor great opportunities for the display of his art."

Mr. Waller has had the distinction of having been commanded five times to appear before their Majesties during the present reign. These performances have been :—

<i>A Marriage of Convenience</i>	(Sandringham)	Nov. 13th, 1903.
<i>Monsieur Beaucaire</i>	(Windsor)	Nov. 19th, 1904.
<i>Robin Hood</i>	(Windsor)	Nov. 16th, 1906.
<i>Still Waters Run Deep</i> (jointly with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore)	(Windsor)	Nov. 16th, 1907.
<i>The Duke's Motto</i>	(Windsor)	Nov. 20th, 1908.

It is a curious fact that while Mr. Waller is regarded as the ideal wearer of the cloak and rapier he prefers to act in modern costume and, with the exception of Shakespearean and classical comedy, would like to act in comedies of the style of those which Sir Charles Wyndham used at one time to play, after he had given up the farces associated with his management of the Criterion Theatre.

The difficulty of obtaining such plays coupled with the demand for romantic drama is likely, however, to confine him for some time yet in the groove in which he has won his great reputation.

RUDOLPH DE CORDOVA.



Photo

Madame Modjeska



By William Shakespeare Madame Modjeska Tour 1885



By George Lovell. Produced at the St James's Theatre. April 9th. 1888



Photo.

Russell & Co.



Mr. Lewis Waller

as

CAVARADOSSI

in "La Tosca."

By Sardou. Translated by Henry Hamilton and F. C. Grove.
Produced at the Garrick Theatre, November 28th, 1889.



Photo.

Alfred Ellis & Walery.



Mr. Lewis Waller

as

ORESTES

in "Hypatia"

Founded on Kingsley's novel of that name.

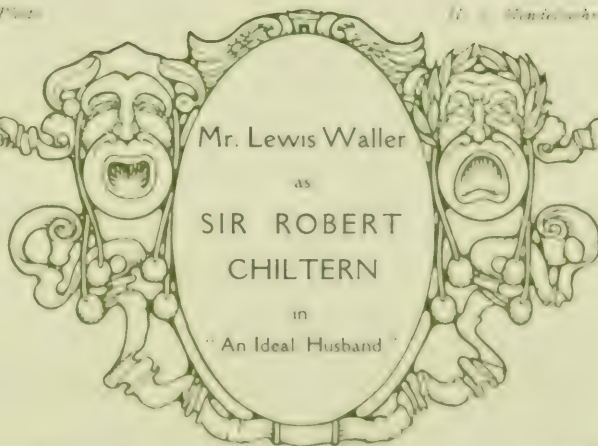
By C. STUART CRUIKE.

Produced at the Haymarket Theatre, July 2nd, 1893.



Photo

H. Montague.



By Oscar Wilde

Produced at the Haymarket Theatre, January 3rd, 1895



By Messrs. Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett. Produced at the Shaftesbury Theatre, November 18th, 1895.



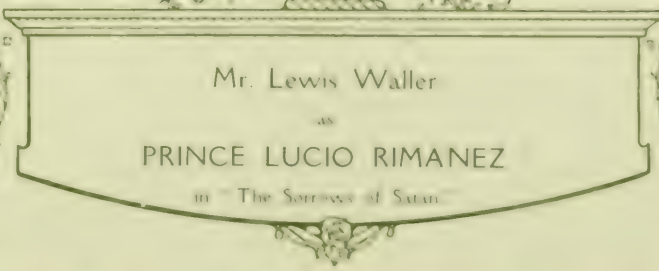
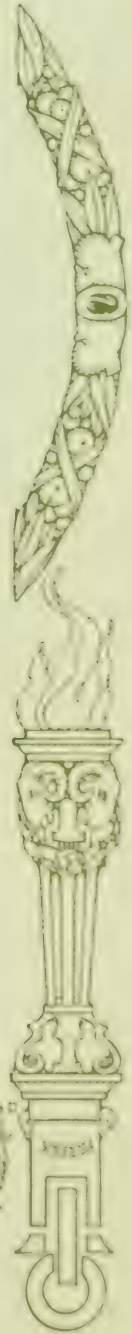
By William Shakespeare

Produced at the Haymarket Theatre May 5th 1896



Photo

H. L. G. G. G.



Adapted by Herbert Woodgate and Paul M. Barton from the novel of that name by Marie Corelli.
Produced at the Stratford Theatre January 9th, 1897



Photo. London Stereoscopic Co.

Mr. Lewis Waller
as
PHILIP FAULCONBRIDGE
in "King John"

By William Shakespeare

Produced at Her Majesty's Theatre, September 20th, 1899.



By William Shakespeare

Produced at Her Majesty's Theatre, January 13th, 1900.



Adapted from Dumas's Novel of that name by Henry Hamilton.
 Produced at the Lyceum Theatre, November 1st, 1904. Originally produced at
 the Metropole Theatre, Camberwell.



Photo, Alfred Ellis & Womersley

Mr. Lewis Waller
as
HENRY V
in "King Henry V"

By William Shakespeare

Produced at the Lyceum Theatre, December 22nd, 1900



Photo. by J. J. de Warren

Mr. Lewis Waller
as
DON CESAR DE BAZAN
in "A Royal Rival"

Adapted from "Don Cesar de Bazan" by Dumas & D'Ennery. By Gerald de Maistre.
Produced at the Duke of York Theatre, August 24th 1901



Mr. Lewis Waller
as
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE
in "Mlle. Marc."

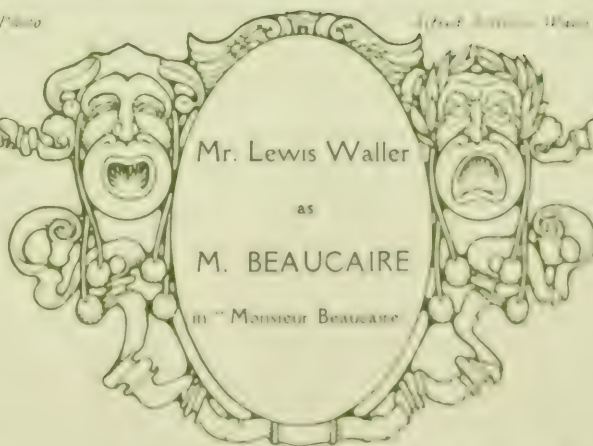
By Paul Kester

Produced at the Imperial Theatre, January 25th, 1902



Photo

by Fred. J. Brown, Warrington



By Booth Tarkington and E. G. Sutherland. Produced at the Comedy Theatre, October 25th, 1902.
Originally produced at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Liverpool, October 6th, 1902.

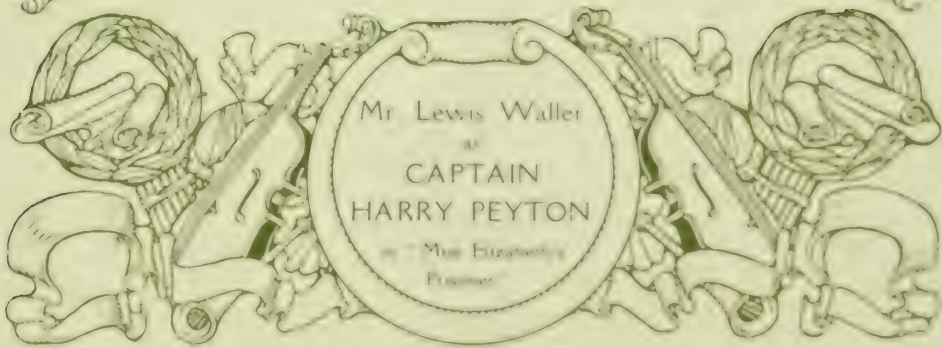


By Sydney Grundy. Produced at the Imperial Theatre, March 6th, 1904.
Originally produced at the Haymarket Theatre.

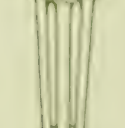
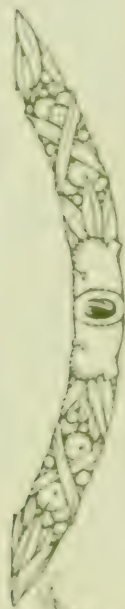


Photo

—Herald Studio—London



By R. N. Stephens and E. Lyall Somers. Produced at the Imperial Theatre, April 16th, 1901.

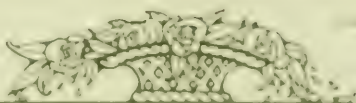
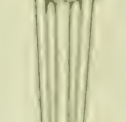
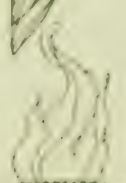
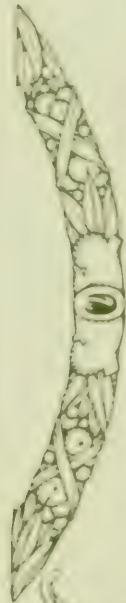


1875

Alfred Waller

Mr. Lewis Waller
as
GEOFFREY MOHUN
in "His Majesty's Servant"

By S. B. Elliott and Maud Hutton. (Frontispiece of the Imperial Theatre, Ontario, 4th, 1914)



Mr. Lewis Waller
as
ROMEO
in "Romeo and Juliet"

By William Shakespeare. Produced at the Imperial Theatre, April 22nd, 1915.



Mr. Lewis Waller
as
JOSEPH TREMBLETT
in "The Perfect Lover"

By Alfred Suter

Performer in the Imperial Theatre, London, 14th, 1885.



Adapted from "Le Roi Arlequin" by Rudolph Lattier, by Louis N. Parker and Selwyn Briscoe.
 Produced at the Imperial Theatre, January 24, 1914.



By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Produced at the Lyric Theatre, March 2nd, 1906.



THOMAS

J. L. B. B. B. B. B.



By William Shakespeare

Produced at the Little Theatre, May 17th, 1916



By William Douglas

Produced at the Lyceum Theatre, London, 1898



Painted by J. H. W. W. W. W.

Mr. Lewis Waller
in
LORD CLANCARTY
in Clancarty

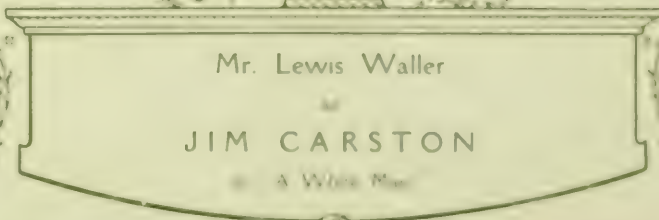
By Tom Taylor

Produced at the Lyric Theatre, April 14th, 1907. Originally produced at the Olympic Theatre.



Photo

Alfred Smith for Theatre

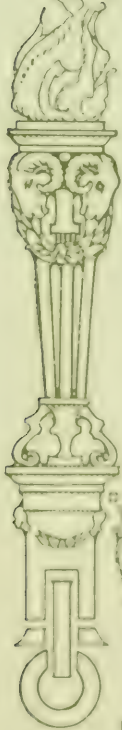
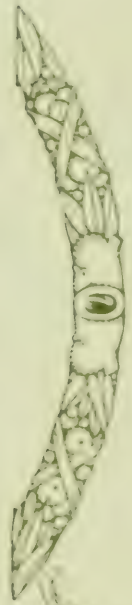


Mr. Lewis Waller

JIM CARSTON

A White Man

By F. Milton Brown Produced at the Vaudeville Theatre, January 11th, 1923



Mr. Lewis Waller
at
ALEXANDER MACKENZIE
The Explorer

By W. Somerset Maugham. Produced at the Lyric Theatre, June 11th, 1908.
Revised May 25th, 1909.



Adapted from "Le Bossu" by Paul Féval, by David Garrigue, M.A.
Produced at the Lyric Theatre, September 8th, 1908



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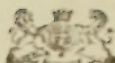
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